United Nations E/2007/SR.5

Economic and Social Council

Provisional

6 March 2007

Original: English

Organizational session for 2007

Provisional summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 15 February 2007, at 5 p.m.

President: Mr. Čekuolis ..... (Lithuania)

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07-23960 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 5.25 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2007/1 and Corr.1; E/2007/2/Rev.1 and E/2007/L.1)

1. **The President**, drawing attention to the annotated provisional agenda contained in document E/2007/2/Rev.1 and to the draft proposals contained in document E/2007/L.1, said that, while the Council had taken action on draft decision I (Proposed date of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) at its third meeting, and on draft decisions IV (Working arrangements for the substantive session of 2007 of the Economic and Social Council) and VII (Operational activities segment of the 2007 substantive session) at its fourth meeting, it had yet to take action on the remaining draft decisions. In that connection, he invited the facilitator of the informal informal consultations on the 2007 high-level segment to brief the Council on the outcome of those consultations.

2. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu Aguirre** (Mexico) said that no agreement had yet been reached on the theme of the 2007 thematic discussion and the theme for the 2007 annual ministerial review. While delegations' views regarding the substance of the high-level segment had converged, differences regarding its structure remained. He hoped that the matters in question could be resolved rapidly.

3. **The President** said that a rapid decision on theme of the 2007 thematic discussion and the theme for the 2007 annual ministerial review would promote a successful July 2007 substantive session. As a result of the decisions made by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/16 on strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, that session would serve as a testing ground for new working methods. However, he hoped that the Council could carry on its work uninterrupted while still devoting time to assessing and refining those new methods.

4. Accordingly, in the interests of making progress with the Council's agenda, he wished to propose that the theme of the 2007 thematic discussion should be "Strengthening the global partnership for development, including to promote the eradication of poverty and hunger", and the theme for the 2007 annual ministerial review should be "Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through sustained economic growth".

The meeting was suspended at 5.35 p.m. and resumed at 6.05 p.m.

5. **Mr. Aslam Khan** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, agreed with the President that a decision on the theme of the 2007 thematic discussion and the theme for the 2007 annual ministerial review must be made as rapidly as possible. However, the Member States, and particularly the larger groups of Member States, must have the opportunity to discuss any suggestions or proposals and to refer them to their capitals for instructions. That would ensure the widest possible ownership of the Council's decisions.

6. Despite the limited time available for debate, his group had concluded that it could support the suggestions of the President, with some alteration. In the case of the theme of the 2007 thematic discussion, it favoured retaining only the first part of the title, leaving "Strengthening the global partnership for development". In the case of the theme for the 2007 annual ministerial review, it favoured deleting the word "including" to leave "Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustained economic growth".

7. **Mr. Mally** (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the President's suggested theme for the 2007 annual ministerial review. As his delegation was uncertain how the General Assembly intended implementation of the global partnership for development to proceed in the light of resolution 61/16, it proposed that the words "efforts within" be inserted into the President's suggested theme for the 2007 thematic discussion, which would read: "Strengthening efforts within the global partnership for development, including to promote the eradication of poverty and hunger".

8. **Mr. Graf** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that his group required time to discuss the President's suggestion. He would report its position to the Council.

9. **The President**, expressing the hope that the Council could finalize the theme of the 2007 thematic discussion and the theme for the 2007 annual ministerial review without delay, encouraged

delegations to consult their capitals on his suggestions as rapidly as possible. A formal meeting of the Council would be scheduled to gather the views of individual delegations and groups.

10. **Mr. Aslam Khan** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, while his group had expressed its views on the President's suggestions, it wished to hear the positions of other delegations and groups, and have an opportunity to react to those positions. For that reason, he urged the President to allow for informal consultations to precede the formal meeting of the Council.

11. **The President** said that the scheduling of informal and formal meetings would follow whatever pattern was needed to advance the work of the Council.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.